

I am unable to attend the public hearing on March 2nd, but wish to express my concerns to the Appropriations Committee.

I am writing because of the proposed budget cuts to important environmental programs.

- Connecticut State Parks are set to lose \$2 million. This would result in a severe shortage of seasonal workers, causing park shut-downs. Our parks offer us a great resource for family summer recreation and generate millions of dollars in state revenue. This cut would also impact future revenues as well as people look outside of Connecticut for recreational opportunity.
- Community Investment Funds cuts of \$13.5 million in 2015-2016 and \$27 million in 2016-2017 will undermine future commitment to support open space protection, farmland preservation, historic building renovation, and low-income housing projects. Without state support, local governments will not consider such proposals, leaving our communities vulnerable to loss of land and properties, and housing issues.
- The Council on Environmental Quality serves a critical role for the public on environmental issues. It should not be moved to the Office of Legislative Management where it will lose independence and potentially its staff.

I am asking you to please work to change these proposed cuts and support environment in Connecticut. What we do now will impact the future of Connecticut's land and programs. Our environment is too important to be undermined by budget cuts.

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